

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1546

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TZ, UR, CU
SUBJECT: FURTHER NOTES ON CASTRO AND PODGORNY VISITS TO TANZANIA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1351, 1258, 1162

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AMBASSADORIAL COLLEAGUE, CASTRO LEFT VERY GOOD IMAGE IN TANZANIA, IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS ADMITTED CONCERN ABOUT CUBA'S OVER-DEPENDENCE ON USSR. PODGORNY CREATED HEAVILY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION, WHICH NYERERE USED TO SCHOOL HIS OFFICIALS ON DANGER OF COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN VERY SPECIFIC MUTUAL INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE OF MY SCANDINAVIAN COLLEAGUES HERE RECENTLY COMPARED NOTES WITH ME ON ASSESSMENT CASTRO AND PODGORNY VISITS. HIS OVERALL CONCLUSIONS WERE VERY CLOSE TO OURS AS EXPRESSED REFTELS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED SOME INTERESTING DETAILS DERIVED FROM HIS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH TANZANIAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE VISITS.

3. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, CASTRO'S STAY HAD BEEN A
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COMPLETE SUCCESS. ALL TANZANIANS WHO HAD MET HIM HAD LIKED HIM. HE HAD DONE EXACTLY WHAT THEY SUGGESTED HE DO WHILE HERE (A LOT OF SIGHTSEEING), AND HE HAD NOT TRIED TO SELL TANZANIA ANYTHING. HE UNDERSTOOD LOCAL VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNMENT, AND IN THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION WITH NYERERE ON THE SUBJECT, CASTRO HAD VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CUBA'S POSITION OF EXCESSIVE ASSOCIATION WITH AND DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR. HE

INTENDED TO REDRESS THIS, HE SAID, BUT HAD TO DO SO SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF HARD LINE PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS AMONG HIS OWN COLLEAGUES WHO COULD AND SOULD "STIR UP SERIOUS TROUBLE" FOR HIM IF HE MOVED TOO QUICKLY.

4. THE FLAVOR OF THE PODGORNYY VISIT WAS VERY DIFFERENT. THE TANZANIANS HAD HAD TO REJECT A LARGE MAJORITY OF SOVIET PROPOSALS IN CONNECTION WITH IT, E.G., PODGORNYY'S DESIRE TO ADDRESS A LARGE PUBLIC GATHERING, REQUESTS FOR SIGNATURE OF A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING A "MARITIME AND SHIPPING AGREEMENT" AND A FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IN CONSIDERING THE ORIGINAL SOVIET REQUEST FOR THE LATTER, THE TANZANIANS HAD GOT HOLD OF A COPY OF THE USSR-ANGOLA FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT AND FOUND "A NUMBER OF THINGS" IN IT WHICH SCARED THEM. THEY HAD NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAD AGREED TO SIGN A SIMILAR AGREEMENT AND WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS.

5. NYERERE HAD REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST THE RUSSIAN PARTY'S "CRUDE AND AGGRESSIVE" BEHAVIOR, THEIR TENDENTIOUS PRESENTATIONS ON SALT (ABOUT WHICH THE TANZANIANS KNEW AND CARED LITTLE), THEIR INSISTENT DENUNCIATIONS OF ALMOST ALL ASPECTS OF WESTERN SOCIETY, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, AND THEIR INACCURATE BOASTING ABOUT THEIR OWN ACHIEVEMENTS.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT POST MORTEM WITH TANZANIAN OFFICIALS, NYERERE HAD USED SOVIET PERFORMANCE DURING VISIT AS BASIS FOR SCHOOLING HIS ASSOCIATES ON DANGERS OF COOPERATION WITH RUSSIANS ON ANYTHING BUT VERY SPECIFIC MUTUAL INTERESTS, E.G., ARMS SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (WHICH, NYERERE SAID, PODGORNYY

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HAD AGREED TO EXTEND TO ZANU AS WELL AS ZAPU). NYERERE CONCLUDED POST MORTEM BY POINTING OUT THAT IF PICTURE PRESENTED BY SOVIETS WERE CORRECT, PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD WOULD BE RUNNING AWAY TO RUSSIA WHILE IN FACT IT WAS RUSSIANS WHO WERE CONTINUALLY TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

7. COMMENT: MY INFORMATIVE COLLEAGUE DOES ENJOY A LONG-STANDING AND UNUSUALLY HIGH DEGREE OF TRUST BY TANZANIAN OFFICIALS. HIS PRO-WESTERN VIEWS ARE WELL KNOWN AND HE MAY SIMPLY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY HIS FRIENDS WHAT THEY KNEW HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THE ABOVE IS CONSISTENT WITH NYERERE'S FREQUENTLY-EXPRESSED VIEW OF HIMSELF AND HIS COUNTRY; SOME OF IT IS SUPPORTED BY TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR KATIKAZA'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DE PREE (MAPUTO 357); AND, IF IT WAS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED FOR WESTERN CONSUMPTION, TANZANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE PASSED UP NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT IT DIRECTLY TO ME, BRITISH, CANADIAN, GERMAN, ETC. THUS, I BELIEVE, INFORMATION SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

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